POINT MEETING - March 13, 1973 * Guest - Peter Sherrill * Host - Ed Parker

Stanford University Faculty Club and the Communications Research Department

In the beginning we were told that importing our own food into the Faculty Club was a no-no and so we transmuted (moved) our selves into the Sun, surrounded by birds and fresh air and thusly spread our table.

Jerry: What do you mean by commitments for the future?

Mike: Plans for money use; do you have ideas or projects you are commited to?

Jerry: I'm a little vague on them as yet but once commited it is as good as made.

Mike: My commitments are very definite. Let's talk about Foresta.

Jerry: Best function ever, loved it, had a great time.

Stewart: Wonderful, can't wait until next year.

Huey: Very pleasant, glad to meet the people, damn good gathering. Also, there were some very strong people in the Foresta group. I would, however, like to add my dismay at fellow board member Jerry Mander and his wife's attempt to manipulate the board into a meeting (there was not to be a board meeting at Foresta), and that in that attempt we met with demands that the board immediately name two additional members from one of the many special interest groups we support. It was, at best, a demonstration of incompetence.

One axiom apparent at that meeting is that in any "true believer" movement, including Women's Lib, individuals come in a wide degree of effectiveness and ability. Both extremes were represented there. But beyond that, one lesson becomes apparent, and that is that as a foundation we need to be on guard against the avid "true believers" we support. Every activist sees the world from his own knothole. Anyone can justify total support for their idea, whither Indians, Baptists, women, farmers, taxpayers, etc.
Somehow we must grasp the fact that each of us, for once in his life, can do something other than utter complaints and enter into long, nonproductive rap sessions. We can each act clearly, through our own efforts, to implement a program involving $50,000 or more this year. That is more than most foundations spend annually, and is enough to set up an effective program.

I suspect that ultimately one can only judge by his own experience. I only ask that those who have pet interests handle them accordingly.

Richard: Facilities great, big thanks to Mike for doing such a great job of organizing - great tone and atmosphere. Would I do it again? Yes. The size of the group was big enough (35-40), not any bigger. I would have appreciated a few more presentations like Harvey Karman's.

Jerry: Yes, missed having more chances to hear what people were doing (loose presentations). Also, hoped to have board sit together and get feedback

from agents and grantees - what was the meaning of money to them, how was it affecting their work? Too many movies. More time should have been spent on POINT and money use.

Huey: As always there is a distance between the estimate and the final bill. I feel we should pay it as is, the funds will go to good ends. We can be thankful for the freedom they allowed us.

Mike: Don't know about the rest of you but I was approached several times by Bill Goetz regarding his being on the board to represent the poor people and get a salary. My feeling is to ignore the Gov't sponsored poor prople programs altogether. However, Bill is doing a thorough job of trying to hustle us and I believe that if you find a good hustle use it.

Richard: Funding Bill was a risk but we have to take chances in order to learn.

Stewart: I feel I may have hurt Bill with the money, moving him into a higher income level with him not being able to adjust to a lower one when the grant was spent. I funded an "idea" and it was a good experiment.

Huey: We have to take a risk and learn from it and then can take a bigger risk the next time.

We next went into a discussion of grant summaries (a brief on each director's use of funds since the first of November to the present. These summaries are attached to the minutes. The following comments were ignited as each director told of his use of funds.

Jerry: I have some media ideas on the national sex organization which I'd like to relate to you Mike so let's get together on that.

The following comments were inspired by Jerry's outining his grant to Indigena.

Huey: The social responsibilities of corporations overseas can be horrible. On my recent trip to Japan I was happy to learn how aware the people in the Pacific Basin are of the need for environmental protection. The question is, how can we be effective against the abusive companies? Maybe through unions - not unloading ships if the company is riping off the environment. Possibly we could get help from the U.N.

Stewart: It may be possible to place restrictions on corporations through the use of Federal regulations related to their conduct overseas.

Jerry then commented on media, problems in this field and some possibilities of what can be done - training people to do public service ads and maybe finding a way to recycle media money.

Huey: In relating as to why he didn't have his grant summaries with him: "Had two piles of papers on my desk at work - one that had to be done immediately and the other sooner than that and I grabbed the wrong one and took it home - made for a nice evening at home though."

Mike: That's a $25 fine Huey.

Richard: Ha Ha

Jerry: Ho Ho

Stewart: Ditto

Huey: I'm working on the development of a generalist program for universities to train people in effective land use in which it would be a one year program and then send the student out into the field. I've also been thinking that it might be possible to get Marlon Brando's island and use it as a headquarters for the Pacific Basin environmental movement.

Stewart: I have a feeling that Brando would be hot for the idea.

Jerry: Are any of you familiar with Sandy Jacobs? Works with kids on projects where kids film kids learning the basics of life, playing, eating, etc.

Stewart: A very talented film maker.

Richard: No money given as yet. I find a great need for strategy planning. I have about $30,000 earmarked for future use. Individuals are my first concern. My fields of interest at present are Briarpatch, environmental, and Mystical Medicine. One reason for my holding back on funds is that I may not be on the board for the rest of the year. More on that later.

The hands on the clock said it was ten o'clock and we believed it so we moved on to the Communications Research Center to meet with Dr. Edwin Parker and his assistant Larry Rosenthal where we received an orientation on the SPIRES information retrevial system. Dr. Peter Sherrill gave an outline of some of the possibilities, implications, drawbacks, etc. of such a sustem and how it does and possibly will effect society.

Mike: Time, guts and money are what we have to work with; all are limited but time is what we have most of. We need to seek out and impliment that which gives the greatest amount of time (leverage) to influence the future.

Peter: Information is power and whoever controls the information has power. This is one reason why it is necessary to have an information system, with easy access to it, that is available to the public. I see networking the system to keep <u>all</u> informed of the energies within and around the system.

Ed: Information technology could widen the gap between the rich and the poor (information-rich and information-poor). Give everyone access. I feel a great need to speed up evolution in getting this access to all the people and not just those in power ($). Let the receiver decide what he receives!

Jerry: How does the user know what is in the system?

Ed: He asks. The user will also have his own personal file which he structures himself.

We next moved to another room to receive an orientation on a terminal consol (keyboard and visual screen) and Larry gave a demonstration as to its nature and operating procedures and the type of information thus far logged on. We then changed rooms to do a little experimenting on our own. With a knowledgable and experential history, Stewart took command of his terminal. After logging in and getting some general data from the system, Jerry found that he was giving "non-legal commands", asking for things the computer was not ready to reveal to him. Though Jerry felt this was shades of "Big Brother" it was fun and interesting to play with. Michael quickly dispenced with the usual program and began terminal to terminal rap with Stewart and later set up a proxy marriage situation (to be continued at a later date, maybe). By this time we had progressed by two hours and so ajourned to the Faculty Club for lunch. Peter and Stewart each had a sandwich of their choice while the rest of us partook of the buffet - and wine.

Peter: The SPIRES System provides three things; entertainment, information, and instruction as should any system such as this.

Ed: The pilot system at Stanford is to show the community its usefulness and economy and how a system of this nature will, if properly applied, be accessable to all strata of society.

Stewart: Kids are the most computer adept facet of society and this is building a base of some magnitude which is something to consider when future planning.

Mike: We should be working to build a phenomenal computer peer group, one that believes in democracy and privacy. Many seeds can be planted how to grow later.

At this point everyone made a dash for the desert table.

Jerry: I'm concerned about money being the key to access. This in a way says who controls the information and use. This sort of everyday wiring-in of every home into computers would further lock everyone into a technological approach to "information", thereby producing people who were more and more like the machines, and as limited as the machines are. While it is true that everyone with money could have access to this information, in order to use it most people would have to learn enough technology to do so and whomever in this world is still living in a subjective mode--Indians, primatives, possibly some poor pwople--would have to adapt their very persons to relate to these machines, become more like them, as it were, with an inevitable reduction in the diversity of the planet. Therefore my instinct is that they are anti-ecological, anti-democratic, pro-autocratic, and unless someone can figure out how to alter that, then they are as dangerous as centralized broadcast television.

Ed: Unless we can change the economic structure of this society there is no other way to set up a system such as this. The cost would be very low on a monthly bases, cheaper than a full page ad which is a one shot deal, maybe in the neighborhood of 10¢/month for storage and 5¢ for each use of that program/piece of information.

Peter: What is the biffest threat to this system?

Ed: There is no way it can be stopped but the nature of diffusion will be of great importance.

Huey: Well Mike I'm a little disappointed that you didn't surprise us by announcing that POINT was going to computerize, do out board meetings via computers and our daily communications as well.

Ed had to excuse himself as he had a meeting to attend and thanked us all for joining him and requested further dialog at any time. We found a table in the Sun and there continued our exchanges.

Peter: Evolution has to be away from structure. "The truth is negotiable".

Stewart: How?

Mike: Back to the agenda.

Richard: If it is alright with everyone I'll work with Charlie Watson and absorb his energy and help him organize in some of the moving communities in the area such as Santa Cruz. Huey has mentioned the he feels right about giving Charlie another grant and helping him with his vehicle problem.

Stewart: Windmills in Golden Gate Park - The idea is to make them a showcase of carpentry as well as a museum of technology. I approached Lloyd Kahn with the idea and he turned it down but a short time later he called me and said "damned you Brand", which was his way of saying that he was indeed interested. There may also be some help coming from Peter Berg in promotion.

Softwar - I hope to have it public by next winter but need some time in the backyard to experiment, to become familiar with the terrain. Now involved with the Esalen Sports Program as an idea source and am also able to be in contact with such mystical athletes as John Brodie and others. (further info attached).

What I need is $50,000 for a three year period to pull this thing off.

Mike: The board needs to restrict $50,000 for Softwar , not to be effected by the rest of our funding.

Stewart: Softwar should be effective within two to three years and then may be able to sustain POINT, if that's what happening then.

Richard: I motion to do it.

Jerry: I second that.

Mike: No motion is needed - are there any objections?

Huey: With Stewart as administrator of these funds I want to know if I can approach him for the use of some of these funds or ask how they are being used?

Stewart: Yes, but I can also say no if why you want some of the funds is not related.

Mike: We will have to check with Larry Klein as to the legal implications in this matter. Whether Stewart will have to give up his director position, become a paid officer or what.

We have moved our portfolio account to the Bank of Marin, mainly for the auxiliary benefits. he man in charge of the account is a friend and I think we have exhausted the usefulness of The Bank of California.

Huey: Why not the Bank of Tokyo? It may be a way of putting pressure on companies' overseas policies, maybe the whaling industry.

Mike: The local office is just a mailbox. There is no contact with the people in charge.

Huey: We need a better reason for moving. I abstain from a vote. (and grumpily did he abstain)

Stewart: An audit of Random House is very much needed.

Mike: Yes, and it will be done as soon as possible. I'd also like to mention that we change to single signature checks to facilitate getting the money sent to the grantees.

Huey & Richard: No. There have to be checks and balances.

Agreed and so we continue with double signature checks.

Mike: We must pick a direction (for POINT) so we can decide on a new director. Maybe someone in the information utilities field.

Jerry: I'm not happy about choosing someone in a field?

Stewart: It's necessary to examine this closly to see which field will be the most effective in the future. This would give us some idea as to the most effective, useful person for a directorship.

Jerry: I want to look at anyone in any field that is interesting.

Peter: It is important to note that we were looking at a Media System today, not computers. The computer part will be reduced to nothing more than high speed switches in the future. This is a media revolution!

The names of Bastin and Rickover were thrown out as possibilities for the position - having trained, expansive minds.

Stewart: This might be a good balance for some of the slush.

Jerry: I didn't know we were going to discuss succession to the board at this meeting and I'm not prepared to do so.

Mike: Just some food for thought.

Jerry: I've been considering the possibilities of investment for POINT. One is a pornographic movie, Cosmic Smut which has some people of name working on it. Looks like a money maker.

Richard: I have very little knowledge in this area but am willing to investigate it.

Little else in the way of discussion about the movie.

Jerry: We may also consider the Raindance Foundation which has a TV proposal for alternative, rightous, informative TV for the people. They figure they can do phase one of their program for about $20K; total is $64K, very cheap considering the size of the project.

Richard: I would consider an investment of about $5,000 - $10,000.

Stewart: I wonder why we are interested in this and not the Cosmic Smut?

Mike: We'll examine this as an investment at $5,000 - $10,000.

Stewart: I'd also consider Raindance for that amount.

Jerry: I'd like to discuss a salary for my time devoted to POINT.

Stewart: As we stated at the conception of POINT, no grants would be duplicated but in this case you are not doing the same thing so I don't see a salary as a duplication of the grant each of us received in the beginning.

Richard: I feel uncomfortable about telling someone to do what I myself am doing - having a job (or part time one) to meet my needs. I believe in right livelihood. If you feel good about it Jerry, then do it the way you have to. We did say a one time grant.

Huey: I agree with Richard. Should be a board policy. Limit policy to one dose (one grant), not to be repeated.

Stewart: This decision will have an effect on the new board member in how funds are dealt with, becoming an agent himself, getting a salary, etc.

Huey: Take a block of money, go off the board and do your thing. Be staff.

Mike: We don't need more staff particularly since we have two who are now working for low pay. Thaat's not the solution.

Richard: Everyone has to follow his own policy. It's hard ofr me to legislate policy as to what another person should do.

Huey: There has to be some policy.

Peter: Does there have to be a policy - it causes a stereotype.

Mike: Maybe a public policy (one for the general public) defining POINT.

Peter: As Sufi Sam says, "The solution often gets in the way of the concept".

Huey: I have another meeting in the city so I'll leave my vote to Mike.

And so Huey and Peter exited.

Mike: How about expenses plus compensation for your hours spent doing POINT work? Say $2-3,000 for expenses and $2-3,000 for time.

Jerry: I didn't want to make such a big thing out of this. I'm almost totaly involved with POINT. According to the law I can't be paid by the projects and besides I don't want to because that would create a business relationship and this I wouldn't like.

Stewart: But you want a business relationship with POINT?

Mike: I find it hard to turn down a friend.

Jerry: I want to follow my feelings, not a foundation's policy. It's very necessary to educate people to appreciate the meaning of TV and the effect it has on their lives. I have some talent related to media and I want to teach people how to use the media energy.

Stewart: Are we amature do-gooders or professionals?

Jerry: Well I asked for $12,000 but will take $10,000.

Mike: I think we are pretty much in agreement. Jerry can submit bills to POINT at ½ his commercial rate but draw no more than $6,000 per year for POINT related business plus his expenses, not exceeding $3,000 per year-with the $3K expense money coming from discretionary funds.

Stewart: So much for that. What's next?

Mike: Let's go home.

All agreed on this note and so we left the Faculty Club - Mike being very delighted over his "new" truck (the green machine had just recieved a super tune-up from the people at the Briarpatch auto co-op), Stewart said he was going to the bookstore, Richard fired up the red MG, and Jerry and I floated up 101 in his white Volvo. Much energy consummed.

PEACE, JOY, ABUNDANCE, LOVE,

Richard Austin

P.S.

Stewart was played by Stewart Brand - Whole Earth Softwar Programmer

Mike was played by Michael Phillips - Glide Church

Richard was played by Richard Raymond - Portola Institute

Jerry was played by Jerry Mander - Freelance Media Consultant

Huey was played by Huey Johnson - Trust For Public Land

Peter was played by Dr. Peter Sherril - Field Research Corporation

Ed was played by Dr. Edwin Parker - Stanford Communications Research Center

To: Austin

The Trust for Public Land

March 30, 1973

Mr. Michael Phillips
Glide Foundation
330 Ellis Street
San Francisco, California

Dear Mike:

My current projects are summarized as follows:

$600 went to the Western Montana Scientists Committee on Public Information. This group involved a Dr. Clancey Gordon one of the nation's leading air pollution scientists who has actively pursued air quality violations in the courts and elsewhere. In addition he is one of the nation's leading community organization specialists. Montana has a complete dearth of foundations. In this case they needed funds to carry the organization during an interim period when he had run out of grants but was expecting additional ones.

$500 to Tom Devries, a former KQED newsroom specialist, to cover a study of the results of the successful injunction concerning the PROPOSITION 20 coastal zoning act. The court had required that television stations give equal time to the proponents of the issue. Some cities such as Sacramento, San Francisco complied and allowed the proponents to have equal time while others particularly Los Angeles were not as open and helpful. Thus it provided an opportunity to study the returns to see what the effect of TV was on the vote in those areas where it was used compared to those where it was not well used. The report is very interesting and is being used as part of a national paper written on the subject of equal time and being carried in a legal journal. Common Cause is issuing the report for further study as well.

Randy Mudgett's $1000 went to get the only footage of the Stockholm conference that I am aware of out of the film developing laboratories. Mudgett and his colleagues had gone to Stockholm but operating on a thin budget did not have money left to get their material developed. Stewart sent him over. I thought it was worth the risk of the $1000 in the event their material had an important message. Now having seen it, they are satisfied at its potential and are completing it as a film.

Mary Jean Haley did a study of the Marincello project, the 2100-acre land owned by Gulf Oil adjacent to the Golden Gate Bridge which had been extremely controversial and over a period of years had gone from certain development into preservation status. This evolution, the individuals, the organization, the public attitudes involved with it represent in my opinion one of the landmarks of public awareness in citizen's action toward land policy in their own communities. It's a very complex project but being handled by her in good fashion.

A grant of $5000 is going to Richard Nielsen and Rosemary Meninger. This team has undertaken the challenge of establishing a center for applied ecology the directives of which will include the training of individuals to manage land particularly farm land in relation to its social and political importance with urban centers.

They also will plan to hold farm lands that become available to various conservation agencies in the nation on a gift basis. Both are excellent administrators and in addition potentially good fundraisers. They will administer bothe the Olklosky and Chadwick programs as they relate to the center. It's my major program undertaking for the year in an area that I feel is in need of improvement.

Helga and Bill Olklosky, $5000, to support them in educating urban dwellers to have an agricultural outlook relating to the land and to assist in the training program which Richard and Rosemary will be administering. The Olkloskys have a Berkeley garden adjacent to the campus which included a working methane generator, a highly productive organic garden, a catfish pond, a circulating food chain, a rabbit hutch, etc. all being used as a community education technique. They are particularly skilled in the survival sense.

$1000 went to Eileen Hulse, a young administrator whom I tag as one of the coming national leaders in the environmental field. She wanted to go to law school and was in need of financial assistance as a beginning.

The University of Alaska planned an Earth Day but was under considerable pressure to not rock the boat because of the oil company's interest at this time there. They needed some money to bring in outside speakers since none of the campus professors could participate and still hold their jobs. $500 went to assist them.

Sincerely,

Huey D. Johnson
President

HDJ/jam

POINT
P.O. BOX 99554
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109
(415) 928-8469

STEWART BRAND

SUMMARY OF GRANTS

LOREN SEARS - $1,000 - 11/2/72
A grant to pay for time and equipment to videotape California Indian Shamans. No clear idea of usefulness, which feels fine.

STEVE DURKEE - $1,000 - 12/19/72
A grant for Steve Durkee to learn to fly. Durkee builds remote encampments for the international Sufi network. Designing and building Lama in New Mexico. Steve built Pir Vilyat Kahn's high camp at Chamonix. Steve's effectiveness on the Mountain Fantasy-like projects multiplies with his flying abilities.

GAY LUCE - COUNCIL GROVE CONFERENCE - $1,000 - 1/23/73 (1/3 of $3,000)
The Council Grove Conferences have been the best access to good work in the parapsychology area.

PAUL SPONG - $2,000 - 1/23/73 ($\frac{1}{2}$ of $4,000)
Paul Spong spends time at sea with a pod of Killer Whales off the coast of British Columbia and pays corneal attention to what goes on. This grant was promoted by Joan McIntyre.

RICHARD NILSEN - no funds paid from my account yet. (a co-op with Huey)
I like Richard's (and Rosemary's) clear-headed approach to "Applied Ecology".

NEW ALCHEMISTS - $2,000 - 2/8/73 - John Todd etc.

ILS LABS " " - Bob Reines etc.

ZOMEWORKS INC. " " - Steve Baer etc.

Committed in 1974 - $8,000 to the group of the above who does the most "interesting" piece of research within a $2,000 budget.

POINT
P.O. BOX 99554
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109
(415) 928-8469

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

SUMMARY OF GRANTS

GARY NEAR (agent grant) - $10,000 - 11/6/72

For public interest law particularly in the areas of corporate social responsibility with concentration on the issues of shareholders rights in proxy battles, isolation of the boards of directors from public responsibility and undue interference in political processes.

IDA STRICKLAND - $1,000 - 1/3/73

To act as Points eyes in the area of funding Third World funding and to be a stimulus to encourage greater activity in that direction.

JESSIE POTTER - $2,000 - 1/15/73

The first in a series of grants in the formation of a new national sex organization to stimulate accurate sex positive information.

TURTLE ISLAND FOUNDATION - $1,500 - 3/7/73

The first grant to this organization, inorder to provide initial funds for operation. It will lead to publication and seminars on material in the area of core North American myths symbols and ~~ge~~thno-geography.

COMMITTED:

DEATH $5,000 for programs using video to encourage recognition of death and the meaning of life, growth, and senility.

COYOTE $2,500 to Margo St. James to organize a prostitutes collecti

CONTINUATION $13,000 for the Creative Peoples list, S.F. Survey, sex research, and special art/culture projects, and corporate responsibility pressure.

NATIONAL SEX ORGANIZATION: $20,000 to open in 5 cities, offices that include, information, counselling, training and advocacy functions of a national sex positive program.

POINT MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 13, 1973

TO: Dick Austin

FROM: RHR

RE: SUMMARY OF GRANTS, 1973

Grants to Date:

So far in 1973 I have awarded no grants, but have made one $3,600 loan to Ron Jones to expand his project of teacher-produced classroom materials. My time for POINT has been applied to several main activities:

1. Life Forum - Overseeing its evolution into an activists shelter working especially with Judi Johnston, who is now a full-time administrator-manager. Present projects include preparations for assisting with a forthcoming Land Reform conference in San Francisco; finishing up Malcolm Margolin's manuscript on teaching about caring for the earth; launching the California Steam Project (steam-driven motors); and organizing a series of strategy sessions, covering issues such as fairness doctrine and media campaigns.

2. Briarpatch Society (see enclosure) - Assisting in organizing the Briarpatch Money Trust in Santa Cruz; initiating a similar trust in Menlo Park area; helping organize a Briarpatch Auto Shop Cooperative in Palo Alto; investigating other communities and groups who are involved in similar projects.

3. Alexander Technique - Investigating the field of breath control and body balance; participating as a guinea pig and also collecting reference materials.

4. Exploring community action projects in San Jose area, campus related.

Proposed 1973 Grants and Interests

My concern is still with locating and helping "alpha fish", especially those who have a positive, life-affirming mission to perform. Also, my interests are branching out from non-profit activities to include more ordinary business approaches. An additional pursuit I expect to continue is finding a replacement person (and a replacement process) to occupy my board position.

The fields of interest that will govern my future granting include:

a. Briarpatch Society (theories of social change), emphasizing

some sub-economy techniques.

b. Environmental projects, working mainly with Life Forum.

c. Non-medical health, perhaps including tradition-busting investigations of aging and dying.

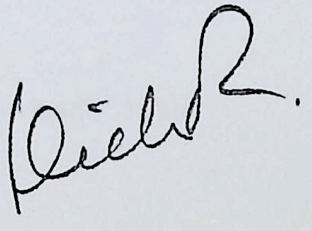
d. Communications and media, especially related to personal information sharing between dispersed groups.

e. Strategy planning for fund-shy projects (including "experiment-chain" doctrines)

f. Music (maybe)

I expect to spread approximately $35,000 within a few months onto the following specified uses:

1. Briarpatch Money Trust(s). Hauncho: Tom Gage
2. Campus-related community projects in San Jose. Hauncho: Carl Foster
3. Briarpatch Services (Hardware, Electronic repair). Hauncho: Bill Duncan
4. Staffing Assistant(s) for free-lance activities like Chas. Watson, Dick Person, Etc.
5. Team grants with other POINT directors.
6. Administrative expenses for myself (approx. $200/mo.)



WHAT IS A BRIARPATCH SOCIETY?

In an ultimate sense, the Briarpatch Society consists of people learning to live with joy in the cracks. But, more particularly, if you are positively-oriented and doing (or actively seeking) Right Livelihood, even willing to fail young, and concerned with the sharing of resources and skills with members of an ongoing community (or affinity group), and especially if you see yourself as part of a subsociety that is more committed to "learning how the world works" than to acquiring possessions and status, then you must be a Briar.

So howdy Briar